

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15, 18, and 19 are currently pending. Claims 1, 18, and 19 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement regarding the claimed limitation "only by arc discharge without evacuation;" and Claims 1, 2, 13, 18, and 19 were rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 2, and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,853,673 to Fukui et al. (hereinafter "the '673 patent") in view of "applicant's prior art disclosure in the specification."

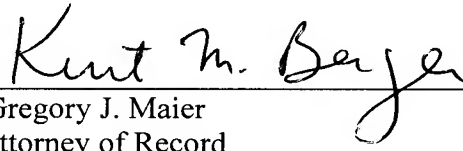
Claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of removing one of a foreign substance located on the inside surface and a bubble located under the inside surface by arc discharge. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended in an analogous manner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is rendered moot, and that this limitation is supported by the originally filed specification. See page 10, lines 1-3.

Applicants respectfully submit that the double-patenting rejections of Claims 1, 2, 13, 18, and 19 are rendered moot by the terminal disclaimer filed herewith.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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